



County of San Diego

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COUNTY GRAND JURY

September 1, 1999

Honorable Wayne L. Peterson
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
County of San Diego Hall of Justice
330 West Broadway, MS C-44
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Judge Peterson:

Enclosed are the responses to the 1998-99 Grand Jury's Interim Reports and Recommendations regarding:

- Court-Ordered Child Support
- Consolidation of San Diego Region's Crime Laboratories
- Detention Facilities Report

These responses were approved by the Board of Supervisors at their August 10, 1999 meeting (Item 4). The Board authorized me to transmit the responses to you.

Sincerely,

WALTER F. EKARD
Chief Administrative Officer

WFE:VJ:kah
Enclosure

c: James T. McCarthy, Foreman, San Diego County Grand Jury ✓
Thomas Pastuszka, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

San Diego County Grand Jury 1998-1999

COURT-ORDERED CHILD SUPPORT

Recommendation 99-93:

Propose state legislation which would permit the FSD office not only to refund improperly collected support payments, but to reimburse the overcharged parent the interest income which that parent has lost and has provided an income to the County.

Response:

Disagree in part. There is no disagreement on the need to refund improperly collected support payments. Once it is determined that support payments have been improperly collected, the District Attorney currently refunds the payment to the non-custodial parent.

The recommendation to propose state legislation that would provide a refund with interest is problematic. Under current law, the child support enforcement and payment system does not calculate the lost interest that would have been earned if the payment was not paid through the District Attorney's Child Support Enforcement Collection System. San Diego County's existing child support automation system is not capable of automatically computing interest. The numbers of case situations that annually fall into this category are less than three percent of the total collected. The anticipated costs to make the programming changes would exceed the total amount of funds being refunded and are therefore not justified. In accordance with existing federal law, there is an effort to develop and implement a statewide child support system. The issue of interest payments will be addressed by the State once the system design is developed.

CONSOLIDATION OF SAN DIEGO REGION'S CRIME LABORATORIES

Recommendation 99-112:

The San Diego City Council and the San Diego County Board of Supervisors should start immediately to incrementally consolidate portions of the SDPD and the SDSO Crime laboratories. As a first step, they should consolidate the DNA section of the SDPD Crime Laboratory into the remodeled, current SDSO Clairemont Mesa Crime Laboratory. The newly-formed DNA section should operate under the direction of the SDSO.

Response:

Disagree in part. In accordance with Board of Supervisors direction of November 10, 1998 (20), the consolidation proposal is currently under consideration by a subcommittee of the Board of Supervisors and representatives of the San Diego City Council. At this time, the anticipated efficiencies and cost savings that could result from a consolidated laboratory cannot be realized until the County Sheriff's laboratory is fully accredited. The accreditation requirements are in process as detailed by the Sheriff in his June 22, 1999 response to recommendation 99-113.

Recommendation 99-114:

The San Diego County Board of Supervisors should oversee the construction of a new state-of-the-art Crime Laboratory facility, construction to begin no later than January 2, 2003.

Response:

Disagree. Although a new facility could be justified in accordance with an approved consolidation plan between the San Diego County Board of Supervisors and the San Diego City Council, it is premature to set a specific commencement date for construction at this time. The construction of a new state-of-the-art Crime Laboratory facility has not been included in the County's Capital Improvement Plan because a consolidation plan has not been executed between the affected organizations and no source of funding has been identified for the capital costs.

Recommendation 99-115:

The San Diego City Council and the San Diego County Board of Supervisors should take steps to form a JPA as a centralized agency with appropriate representation from law enforcement. The JPA is to take over control and management of the new area Crime Laboratory upon completion of construction.

Response:

Disagree. As detailed in the response to Recommendation 99-112, the final decision to form a JPA is premature at this time. Although a JPA could be the preferred option, the administrative structure of the consolidated crime laboratory will be explored during negotiations between the County and the City.

Recommendation 99-116:

The San Diego County Board of Supervisors should incorporate the San Diego County Medical Examiner into the consolidated Crime Laboratory when the new physical plant is completed.

Response:

Disagree in part. The final decision to consolidate the Medical Examiner's laboratory into the consolidated crime laboratory is premature at this time. This issue has been examined in the November 1, 1991 Ruth and Going, Inc. Needs Assessment and Management Analysis for: The San Diego Regional Crime Laboratory and Medical Examiner Facility. Any final decision on this issue will come out of an update of that analysis and negotiations between the County and the City.

DETENTION FACILITIES REPORT

Recommendation 99-121:

The San Diego County Board of Supervisors should undertake a review of the administrative responsibility for adult detentions in San Diego County to determine if it is appropriate to continue the operation of single adult detention facility under the Probation Department while the remaining seven are operated by the Sheriff's Department.

Response:

Agree. Historically the Sheriff's Department has not been interested in this site due in part to its remote location and the prohibition against security fencing and perimeter lighting as imposed by the United States Forestry Service who manage the property. The current lease contract expires on August 4, 2004. The future use of Camp West Fork is currently being considered as part of the Jail Needs Assessment Studies and Las Colinas Detention Facility Master Plan consultant contract that is being requested for Board of Supervisors approval on August 10, 1999.

Recommendations for the Board of Supervisors' approval for the future use of Camp West Fork will be made after the consultant studies have been received and reviewed by the affected departments.

Recommendation 99-122:

The San Diego County Board of Supervisors should prioritize facility maintenance, repair, and improvements in order to provide infrastructure improvements for Camp Barrett, Juvenile Ranch Facility, and Las Colinas.

Response:

Agree. The Probation Department sought grants from the California Board of Corrections for this purpose. Grant applications were submitted on March 17, 1999. On May 20, 1999 the Board of Corrections awarded grant funds in the following amounts:

Juvenile Ranch Facilities-	\$999,999.00
Camp Barrett -	\$898,000.00

The projects included in the grant request were as follows:

Juvenile Ranch Facility

- I. Install new emergency generator.
2. Relocate fuse on power pole.
3. Replace HVAC units at Rayo I & II buildings.
4. Install new AC units at classroom/dorms.
5. Install roof drains on flat roofs/Rayo I & II.
6. Re-roof school, dorms, admin. building.
7. Refurbish restrooms in Rayo I & II dorms.
8. Replace walkway ramps, include lighting.
9. Replace door alarms.

Camp Barrett/Youth Correctional Center

1. Repair fire alarm.
2. Re-wire kitchen electrical.
3. Replace, relocate sewage holding tank, install additional septic.
4. Replace all doors.
5. Repair windows in C&D Dorms.
6. Re-roof kitchen.
7. Construct three new classrooms.
8. Install HVAC units at C&D Dorms.
9. Install ventilation in restrooms.
10. Install floor tile in dorms, showers, toilets.

The purpose of the State/Federal funds offered in the grant was to provide for refurbishment and infrastructure repair of existing facilities in order to extend the life of said facilities. The specified projects will be undertaken and completed during the next two years.

Maintenance and repair issues outside the scope of the grant funds would become part of the Probation Department's and the Chief Administrative Officer's goal to eliminate all major maintenance backlog within two years.

Recommendation 99-123:

The San Diego County Board of Supervisors should continue to pursue, with due diligence, their ongoing efforts to resolve the need for additional juvenile detention facilities.

Response:

Agree. On June 29, 1999, the Board of Supervisors approved receipt of a \$36.5 million grant from the California Board of Corrections for the construction of a new 288-bed juvenile detention facility. The proposed site at the Sheriff's East Mesa complex was approved. The projected opening of the new facility is January 2004. This project will be designed to allow for additional expansion as may be required in the future.